

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EUR-25 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 DOTE-00

SS-20 NSC-10 L-03 H-03 DRC-01 /120 W

----- 044515

R 061120Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5431

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 9497

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRN

SUBJECT: AIR LINE FLIGHTS TO SOUTH AFRICA TRANSITING KINSHASA

REF: KINSHASA 9406

1. AS REPORTED REFTEL, LOCAL RUMOR MILL HAS REHTRTED FOR SEVERAL DAYS THAT GOZ IS PLANNING BAN ONWARD FLIGHTS TO AND FROM SOUTH AFRICA, POSSIBLY DURING MOBUTU'S UPCOMING NOVEMBER 24 SPEECH. RUMOR WAS STRENGTHENED BY SABENA'S ANNOUNCEMENT LAST WEEK THAT THE ONE OF ITS SEVERAL WEEKLY FLIGHTS TO KINSHASA WHICH HAS CONTINUED TO JO'BERG IS BEING DROPPED EARLY NOVEMBER.

2. PAN AM REP HAS LEARNED FROM SABENA THAT IT HAD PLANNED DISCONTINUANCE OF THIS ONE FLIGHT SOME TIME AGO, WELL BEFORE RUMORS BEGAN. MOREOVER, PAN AM
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REP, DURING CONVERSATION NOV 1 WITH STATE COMMISSIONER

FOR TRANSPORT EKETEBI ON OTHER MATTERS. EKETEBI REPLIED FLATLY THAT HE HAD NOT HEARD OF ANY SUCH IDEA. HE ADDED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD APPROVED WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF BRAZIL A RIO DE JANEIRO-LUANDA-KINSHASA SCHEDULE WOULD NOT HAVE DONE THIS HAD THE OTHER MOVE BEEN CONTEMPLATED.

3. I DISCUSSED EKETEBI'S STATEMENT REGARDING THE RIO DE JANEIRO-LUANDA-KINSHASA ROUTE WITH BRAZILIAN AMBASSADOR BARBOSA NOV 2. HE TOLD ME THERE HAD INDEED BEEN A BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT NEGOTIATING TEAM HERE IN LATE JULY, ON GOZ INVITATION, TO WORK OUT A BILATERAL AIR AGREEMENT. NEGOTIATIONS WERE BROKEN OFF JULY 25 AND HAVE NOT BEEN RESUMED BECAUSE GOZ REFUSED BRAZILIAN RZWKWST TO LIFT THE ZAIRIAN REGULATION REQUIRING ALL ZAIRIANS TO TRAVEL ONLY ON THE NATIONAL AIR LINE. HE SAID THAT ONLY TIME LUANDA AROSE IN THE CONVERSATIONS WAS WHEN THE GOZ SIDE AT ONE POINT OFFERED SUCH A ROUTE TO THE BRAZILIANS. THE MATTER WAS NOT PURSUED BECAUSE OF THE OTHER PROBLEMS.

4. COMMENT: I REGARD EKETEBI'S FLAT ASSERTION TO THE PAN AM REP THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAS NO PRESENT INTENTION OF STOPPING ONWARD FLIGHTS TO SOUTH AFRICA AS REASONABLE EVIDENCE OF WHAT HE ASSERTED, BUT NOT CONCLUSIVE. WE WILL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW THIS MATTER CLOSELY.
VANCE

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